

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A wireless mobile terminal is alerted to the presence of an available Wireless Local Area Network by a communication network, based on the location of the mobile terminal. The mobile terminal alerts a wireless computing device, either via a wired or wireless interface, or by paging the user. Alternatively, the mobile terminal and the wireless computing device may form an integrated unit with interfaces to both the WLAN and the communication network. The wireless computing device initiates a scan for the WLAN, or logs onto the WLAN based on information transmitted to the mobile terminal. When the user is not in the range of a WLAN, the wireless computing device conserves battery power by not scanning for a WLAN. The communication network may additionally be connected to the WLAN for data exchange. The alert criteria may be customized and stored in a subscriber database at the communication network.